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Inventory for

Manuscript Collection
MS - 98

Joseph Wescott & Company Records

1848-1864

by
Elisabeth Meier
January 2020

½ box
0.2 linear feet
Accession no. 89.24

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Abstract

Joseph Westcott & Company

Joseph Westcott & Company Records
MS-098
1848-1864
½ box
Merchants and ship owners in Blue Hill, Maine
Vessel papers, including bills, accounts, charter parties, and other documents from vessels owned and managed by Joseph Wescott & Co. of Blue Hill, Maine. These include records of the coasting and West Indies trade, notably carrying granite from Blue Hill to naval shipyards in southern states and trading to Baltimore during the Civil War. There are a few insurance records from Joseph Wescott's retail store in Blue Hill, but no personal material.
In English
Museum Purchase
Accession No. 89.24
Finding aid available in repository and online, folder level control
Preferred Citation: Joseph Westcott & Company Records (MS-098). Maine Maritime Museum

Added entries—persons:
Wescott, Joseph (1813-1883)
Chase, Melatiah K., Captain (1823-1884)
Gray, Albion P., Captain (1827-1902)
Hinckley, Joseph T. (1824-1885)

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):
Clara Norton (schooner)
Eliza Ann (brig)
Joseph Wescott & Co. (Blue Hill, Me.)
Kineo (brig)

Added entries—key terms:
Coal trade
Coasters (ships)
Grain trade
Granite industry
Grocers
Navy-yards and naval stations
Ship owners
Stone industry and trade

Added entries—places:
Blue Hill (Me.)

Acquisition

Maine Maritime Museum purchased this collection in 1989.
Museum; Purchase; 1989; 89.024

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions on this collection.

Physical Condition

The papers are mostly in good condition. Some have water stains, torn edges, surface dirt, creases, and other signs of wear. All are legible and stable.

Historical Note

Joseph Wescott & Co. was a partnership between Joseph Wescott (1813-1883) and Joseph T. Hinckley (1824-1885). The partners were retail and wholesale merchants in Blue Hill, Maine, from the late 1840s to the early 1860s, in addition to owning and operating a number of vessels. The resale part of the business is listed both as a "variety store" and a "grocery" in insurance documents. Wholesale business was equally varied. Joseph Wescott & Co. arranged for their vessels to take cargoes of granite, lumber, fish, grain, and coal, among other items, to and from Blue Hill and to ports along the eastern seaboard. They also regularly sent cargoes of granite to naval shipyards along the Atlantic coast.

Joseph Wescott & Co. dissolved around the end of the Civil War, when Joseph Wescott moved to Portland, Maine. There, he went into business with his son, George P. Wescott, as granite merchants under the name Joseph Wescott & Son. This proved very lucrative: in the 1870 census, Wescott's net worth is listed as $62,000. Joseph T. Hinckly continued a more modest business as a merchant and grocer in Blue Hill for the rest of his career.

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of this collection consists of bills, accounts, charter parties, and other operating papers from vessels owned and presumably managed by Joseph Wescott & Co. It also includes bills of sale and enrollments for vessels owned by Joseph Wescott, Joseph T. Hinkley, and their families, all documented in the Castine Customs District.

Three vessels are particularly well documented. There are bills for the schooner *Clara Norton*, documenting business in coastwise coal and lumber trades between Blue Hill, Boston, and Baltimore during the Civil War. Bills and accounts from the brig *Eliza Ann* record the carriage of granite from Blue Hill to the Pensacola Navy Yard, as well as voyages to Cuba for sugar. A folder of bills and statements for the brig *Kineo* deal with that vessel's sinking in Scituate, Massachusetts, and the subsequent salvage and forwarding of her cargo of granite to the Norfolk Navy Yard.

There are also a few insurance policies from the 1850s that describe Joseph Wescott's store in Blue Hill, but no accounts or other records of that business.

Box and Folder List

Box	Folder	
1	1	*Clara Norton* (schooner), bills and accounts, Captain Albion P. Gray, 1862
	2	Bills and accounts, 1863 and undated
	3	*Eliza Ann* (brig), bill of sale, 1854
	4	Accounts, Captain Melatiah K. Chase, 1850-51
	5	Bills, 1850-51
	6	Remittance letters, 1851
	7	*Kineo* (brig), bill of sale, 1858
	8	Insurance, 1857
	9	Bills and statements, sinking in Scituate, 1857
	10	Bills of sale, *Catharine* (schooner), *Cosmopolite* (brig), *Franklin* (schooner), *Everglade* (schooner), and *R. Leach* (schooner), 1854-1864
	11	Enrollments, *Emma W. Richardson* (brig) and *John Snow* (schooner), 1853, with information on *Cosmopolite* (brig)
	12	Charter Parties, *G.M. Partridge* (schooner) and *R. Leach* (schooner), 1858-1859
	13	Bills, miscellaneous, *Meridian* (schooner) and *Eliza Chase* (schooner), 1848-1853
	14	Joseph Westcott, insurance and miscellaneous papers, 1850-1856